

Take My Life (Romans 12:1-2)

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Take My Life

Romans 12:1-2

In his diary Tim Elliot, who later in his life would be murdered in South Africa by the Cauc Indians wrote these words... The life of this

modern day martyr reminds me of the great song of complete consecration by Francis Hawergal called "Take my Life..."

This young man Tim Elliot prayed Lord take my life and meant it. Have you ever prayed that? Have you ever given your whole life over everything over to the Lord Jesus. A fully consecrated person makes many people uncomfortable, "Let's be practical & sensible they say. But our text demands our lives. ^{life} I want to

give you 3 principles concerning a consecrated

I. The Call to A Consecrated Life

Look at 12:1. This is God's call to Consecration

A. We Are Entreated By God - The word "beseech" = "to come alongside" or "to exhort with tenderness" With authority & tenderness Paul entreats believers to follow the natural response to salvation, "to present our bodies" Word "Bretheren" indicates a relationship to each other. We belong to each other because

we belong to God. The consequence of your redemption is that you belong to him.

1 Cor 6:19-20. Dr Ernest Kenan tells of a friend who asks does this story describe your relationship to the Lord? Are you His

Positionally but not His Practically?

B. We are Enriched By God. - When you come across the word "Therefore".... The word "mercies" forms the whole basis for God's demand for our lives. Mercies points back to the first 11 chapters of Romans and in these chapters we see these mercies very evident. We see Love, Grace, The HS. These are the mercies of God! So in view of these great mercies what should our response be? The response of a people who received so much and deserved so little. This should compel us to give our utmost to God. Do you find this difficult? Easy to yield up some things, yet unwilling for others. We must meditate on the mercies of God.

Where does the crown jewel of God's mercy lay? At the Cross where Christ suffered and died.

II. The Cost of A Consecrated Life

If we are to present or yield up something that naturally means it is going to cost something. Word "Present" = to put at one's disposal "Some word used in 6:13 and translated "yield" "Present a sacrifice"

A. Personal Dedication - "Your bodies"

Romans 6:16 tells us that our bodies were once the bodies of sin. Vehicles through which sin expressed its self. Our feet → to sinful haunts our hands → sinful habits, our mouths → sinful language. But now we are in Christ, Our new nature is to be

Jim Elliot's Diary - "God I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life, that I may burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God for it is Thine. I seek not a long life but a full one, like you Lord Jesus."

Take my life and let it be consecrated lord to thee, take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Earnest Kevan tells of a friend of his who owned an expensive car. His complaint however was that he never had it. The reason behind this was that he has a nephew who was also very fond of the car and whenever Uncle William went to the garage he found it empty and he learned that Neville had it. William paid the tax and the insurance and the all up. It was his car and yet it was not his.

Love: (5:5, 8:39) **Grace:** (4:4 5:2) **The Holy Spirit:** (5:5 8:2) **Peace:** (1:7 2:10)

Faith: (10:17) **Comfort:** (8:14-18) **Power:** (1:16) **Hope:** (5:2) **Patience:** (5:3)

Kindness: (2:4) **Glory:** (2:10) **Righteousness:** (3:21) **Justification:** (5:9) **Security:**

(8:26) **Eternal life:** (5:21) **Freedom:** (6:18) **Resurrection:** (8:11) **Sonship:** (8:14)

Intercession: (8:27)

"Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all." T. Studd said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

Present bodies as a sacrifice would be presented...Our bodies are the beachhead of sin. Our bodies are tempted by Satan and resistant to the Holy Spirit. The body is the centre of desire, disease, depression and doubt, and it must continually be brought into subjection and offered to God as a living sacrifice. This is the cost of a consecrated life. Paul breaks down for us this cost and tells us this cost means a...

Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

David Livingstone the great 19th century Scottish missionary to Africa said this, "people talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of the great debt owing to our God which we could never repay? I have never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk when we remember the great sacrifice which He made when He left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us." A missionary who was watching the construction of beautiful but pagan temples asked an Indian lady. "How much will it cost? It is for the gods," she answered, "we do not ask what it will cost."

But the Lord does not want commitments that are half-hearted, *He wants total commitment.* C.H. Spurgeon was saved as a lad of 15 years of age on the 6th January 1850. On the 1st February he wrote the following prayer of consecration. *"O great and unreachable God, who knowest my heart and triest my ways with a humble dependence on the support of Thy Holy Spirit, I yield up myself to Thee, as thy own reasonable sacrifice. I return to Thee thine own. I would be forever unreservedly perpetually Thine. Whilst I am on earth I would serve Thee, and may I enjoy and praise Thee for ever."*

expressed in this body Ps 6:13 Every part of our body to be yielded to Him, placed at his disposal
feet \rightarrow place of prayer; ears - perishing souls; eyes \rightarrow ^{hands lips heart} sheep no sheep only

B. Sacrificial Dedication "A living Sacrifice"

This is a complete contrast to dead animals in OT. God isn't asking us to die, but rather he wants us to be willing to live the rest of our lives in complete obedience to Him.

"A living Sacrifice" an obedient surrender of self to God." David Livingstone the great 19th century

Is it possible that you are holding back ^{God?} your life because you are afraid of what it might

C. Total Dedication - "Holy, acceptable unto God..."

The OT sacrifice was to be spotless w/o blemish. It was to be the

very best. When you say you are totally giving your life to God, just what are you giving

.. in Malachi's day they weren't giving the best but the worst to the Lord. Are you just offering to God the "leftovers" We are so willing to serve the Lord until it costs us something ^{CH. 5:14-16} money time energy

III The Change in A Consecrated Life

When a Christian presents his body a living Sac ^{CH. 5:16-20} He is

A. He is Changed Morally "And be not con-

formed to this world" or Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its mold.

The world is really human life + society w/ God left out. The world exerts pressures on us all in matters such as morals, standards

and beliefs. The World is the Devil's lair for sinners and his lure for sinners. But the believer laid an alter for God is not to be conformed to this world. Do you realize you are either a conformer

B. He is Changed Mentally - The Greek word translated "transformed" gives us the English word "metamorphosis" which indicates a total change. God this kind of change the Holy Spirit wishes to do in the life of the believer but to do it, He must have control of the body and free access to the mind. Some say in order to be a Christian, you must check brain at the door. No Christianity is not a mind

C. He is Changed Motivationally - The word "Probe" means to find out for yourself in actual experience. Each one of us is responsible to discover what God's will is for our lives. And this will is for our good! God cannot ask us to do anything that is not for our eternal good. God's demand may cut right across our opinions, ambitions, tastes but what God plans for us will be the very best that the omniscient wisdom and divine

IV Closing Take My life. Have you ever said that to the Lord & meant it? Someone once asked General Booth of Salvation Poet once wrote

a conformer or a transformer? A conformer is someone who is controlled by the pressure from without, a transformer is someone who is controlled by the power from within? Which are you? Are you being moulded by the world's standards? Or do you set the standard for the world?

...is not a mind numbing mantra, but it is a thoughtful, intellectual way of life, guided by the truth of God's word.

God plans for us will be the very best that omniscient wisdom and divine love can conceive. God's will is Good. It is Acceptable. God always sees to it *that as 1 John 5:3 states ...his commandments are not grievous*. Indeed God never asks us to take a step for which we are not ready. God's will is also Perfect. No plan of ours can improve on the plan of God. I see only bits and pieces, the Lord sees the whole. I measure things by present vision. He sees past, present and future in its total context as related to eternity. His will is Perfect, and those who "surrender all," will prove it so.

General Booth of the Salvation Army the secret of his life. He replied, "God has had all there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, even with greater opportunities, but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart..., I made up my mind that God should have all of William Booth there was. If there is anything of power in the Salvation Army it is because God has had all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life." Is that true of you? Does God have all there is of you?

Poet - "Only one life to offer, Take it, dear Lord I pray, Nothing from Thee withholding, Thy will I now obey, Thou who hast freely given, Thine all in all for me, Claim this life for Thine own my Saviour, To be used every moment for Thee."